

# A New Species of *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species in *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) is described and illustrated. *Microlicia tenuifolia* is known from the rocky slopes of Diamantina, Minas Gerais state, an important center of endemism for Melastomataceae species. It resembles morphologically *M. isophylla* DC., but it can be distinguished by the smaller leaves and pedicels and calyx lobes with an acute non-apiculate apex.

**RESUMO.** Uma nova espécie de *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) é descrita e ilustrada. *Microlicia tenuifolia* ocorre nos campos rupestres dos arredores de Diamantina, no estado de Minas Gerais, um importante centro de endemismo para espécies de Melastomataceae. Assemelha-se morfológicamente a *M. isophylla* DC., mas pode ser distinta pelas folhas e pedicelos menores e lacínias do cálice com ápice agudo, não apiculado.

**Key words:** Brazil, "campo rupestre," highland vegetation, Melastomataceae, *Microlicia tenuifolia*, Minas Gerais.

During the course of a taxonomic study of the Neotropical species of *Microlicia* D. Don, a new species from Diamantina, Minas Gerais state, Brazil, was discovered. The genus consists of approximately 100 endemic species in the Brazilian states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, and Bahia (Romero, 2003) with a few outlying taxa in Peru (Brako & Zarucchi, 1993), Bolivia and Guyana (Wurdack & Renner, 1993), and Venezuela and Colombia (Berry et al., 2001). Species of *Microlicia* are mostly shrubs or subshrubs, with 5-merous, pedicellate to subsessile, solitary flowers, and capsular fruits with dehiscence longitudinal from the apex to the base.

***Microlicia tenuifolia*** R. Romero, sp. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Minas Gerais: estrada para Conselheiro Mata, a 14 km da rodovia, 13 Dec. 1980, I. Cordeiro, N. L. Menezes, J. R. Pirani & A. Furlan 591 (holotype, HUFU; isotypes, MO, RB, SPF, UEC). Figure 1.

Suffrutex 0.4–1 m altus, caulis teres glaber; ramuli quadrangulati punctato-glandulosi. Laminae sessiles er-

ectae elliptico-lanceolatae 1–3 × 0.2–0.5 mm margine integerrima utrinque densiuscule impresso-punctata, 1–3-nervae. Flores solitarii; petala magenta apice acuminata; ovarium 3-loculare.

*M. isophyllae* DC. maxime affinis sed praecipue lamina et pedicello brevioribus diversa.

Subshrub, 0.4–1 m tall, branching dichotomously or trichotomously, young branches fastigiate; stem terete, glabrous; young branches quadrangular, glutinous, covered with sessile glands, older branches brown, quadrangular, leafless proximally, leaf scars conspicuous, glabrescent. Leaves sessile, blade erect, adpressed, rarely slightly spreading, 1–3 × 0.2–0.5 mm, lanceolate to elliptic, apex acute or obtuse, base truncate-obtuse, margin entire, covered with sessile glands on both surfaces, glutinous or not, 1- to 3-nerved, with inconspicuous lateral veins. Flowers 5-merous, solitary, terminal; pedicels 0.5–1 mm long; hypanthium 2–3 × 1.5–2.5 mm, campanulate, 5- to 10-costate, rugose, glutinous, covered with sessile glands, calyx lobes 1.5–2.5 mm long, triangular-lanceolate, apex acute, not apiculate, covered with sessile glands; petals 6–10 × 4–6(–8) mm, magenta, obovate, apex acuminate, margin entire; stamens 10, dimorphic, larger stamens 5, the filaments 1–2 mm long, purple, the thecae 1.0–1.5 mm long, purple, ovate to oblong, not corrugate, with rostrum ca. 0.2 mm long, white, the connective prolonged 1.5–2 mm, purple, with ventral appendage ca. 1.0 mm long, yellow, expanded and slightly bilobed; smaller stamens 5, the filaments 1.5–2 mm long, purple, the thecae ca. 1 mm long, yellow, ovate, not corrugate, with rostrum ca. 0.2 mm long, the connective prolonged ca. 0.6 mm long, yellow, without ventral appendage; ovary superior, 3-locular, glabrous; style ca. 3 mm long, filiform, glabrous, stigma punctiform. Capsule 3–4 × 2–3 mm, greenish brown, globose; seeds 0.4–0.5 × ca. 0.3 mm, numerous, slightly curved, foveolate.

**Distribution and ecology.** *Microlicia tenuifolia* is characterized by being a subshrub with slender, fastigiate branches, very small leaves, costate hypanthium, long calyx lobes, and dimorphic stamens. Endemic to the region around Diamantina,

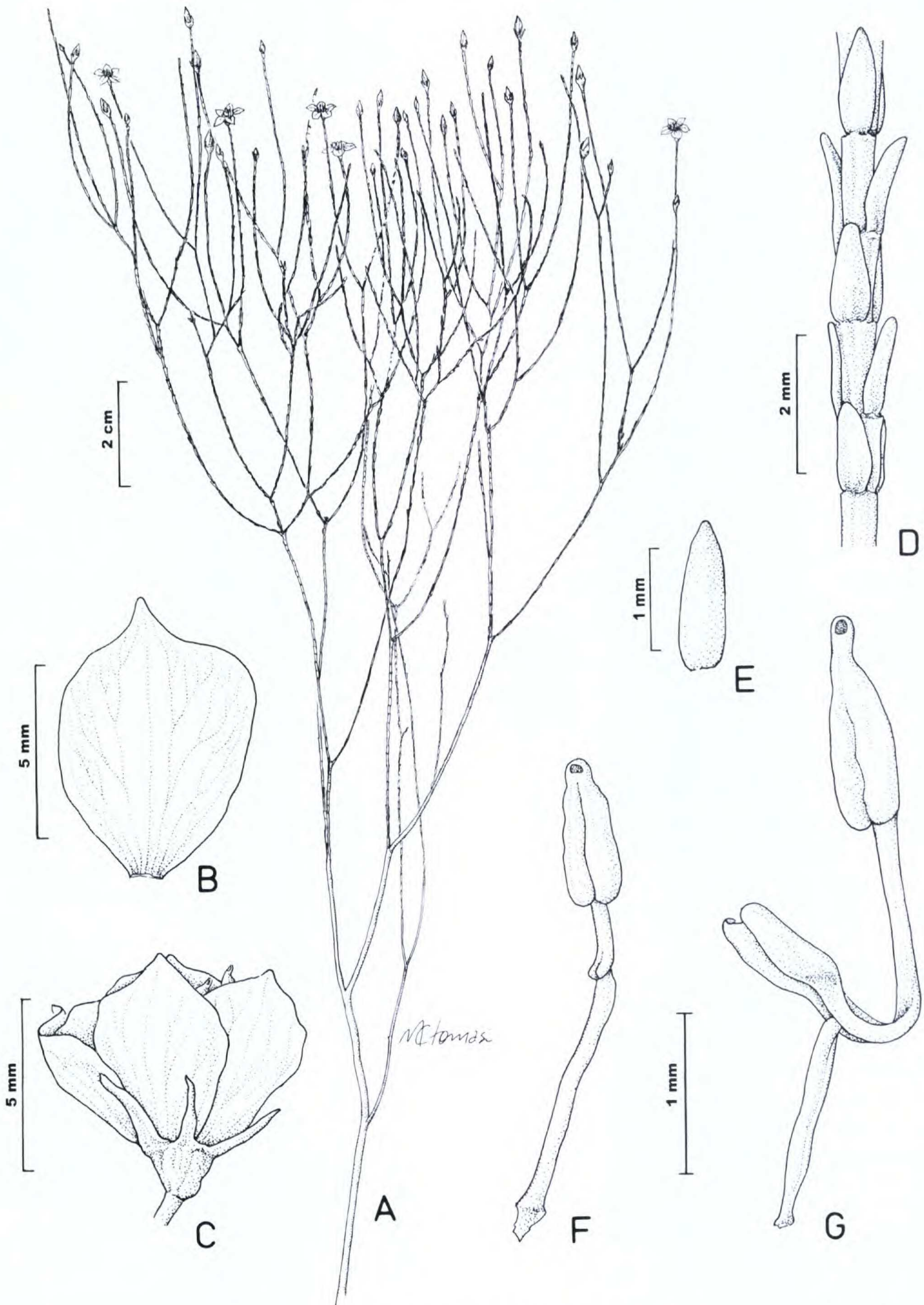


Figure 1. *Microlicia tenuifolia* R. Romero. —A. Habit. —B. Petal. —C. Flower, hypanthium, and calyx lobes. —D. Detail of the branch and insertion of the leaves. —E. Leaf. —F. Lateral view of small stamen. —G. Lateral view of large stamen. Drawn from the paratype *Spllett* 622 (HB).

Minas Gerais state, where it is locally common in campo rupestre.

*Phenology.* Flowering specimens have been collected from June to December; fruiting specimens have been collected in January, April, May, August, September, and October.

The first gatherings of this species were made by Auguste Glaziou in 1892 from localities near Diamantina, Minas Gerais state (*Glaziou 19200, 19201*). Glaziou (1908) subsequently listed both gatherings under *Microlicia denudata* Cogniaux. However, this identification, although perpetuated by most subsequent collectors/authors, is erroneous. *Microlicia denudata* Cogniaux seems to be known only from the type gatherings from Goiás (*Gardner 3731*). Isotypes of *Microlicia denudata* seen by the author at BM and K have a hypanthium covered with dense stalked glands mainly on the apex, eventually with caducous glands, triangular-lanceolate calyx lobes setose with acute apex, ciliate margin, and lanceolate leaves with entire margin and acute, apiculate apex, and are thus quite different from the *Glaziou 19200* and *19201* gatherings. These two latter gatherings represent a hitherto undescribed species, which I describe herein as *Microlicia tenuifolia*. Gatherings of *Glaziou 19200* at C and K were determined as "*M. denudata* var. *brevifolia* Cogniaux," and those of *Glaziou 19201* at C, K, and OUPR were determined as "*M. denudata* var. *fastigiata* Cogniaux," although neither varietal name was validly published by Alfred Cogniaux or indeed by anyone else.

*Microlicia tenuifolia* resembles *M. isophylla* DC., which occurs in São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro states. Both have erect, lanceolate to elliptic leaves with entire margins and both surfaces covered with sessile glands. The leaves 1–3 × 0.2–0.5 mm, pedicels 0.5–1 mm long, and calyx lobes with an acute non-apiculate apex distinguish *M. tenuifolia* from *M. isophylla*. *Microlicia isophylla* has larger (3–7 × 1–2 mm) leaves, pedicels 1.5–2 mm long, and calyx lobes with an acute, apiculate apex.

*Paratypes.* BRAZIL. **Minas Gerais:** Diamantina, s.d., *A. Glaziou 19200* (C, K, P—3 sheets), 9 Apr. 1892, *A. Glaziou 19201* (C, F, K, OUPR, P, R, US); Conselheiro Mata, Lama Preta, June 1934, *Brade 13717* (US); ca. 12 km SW of Diamantina, 18 Jan. 1969, *H. S. Irwin, R. R.*

*Santos, R. Souza & F. Fonseca 22190* (K, NY, RB, US); Guinda, 7 Sep. 1971, *G. Hatscbach 27364* (HUFU, MBM, US); Planalto Diamantina, 7 Oct. 1972, *A. P. Duarte 14026* (US); estrada Diamantina–Corinto, 1 Dec. 1976, *G. J. Shepherd, J. B. Andrade, L. S. Kinoshita & J. Y. Tamshiro 3890* (NY, UEC); 24 km na estrada Diamantina–Conselheiro Mata, 30 Aug. 1981, *A. M. Giuliatti, N. M. L. Menezes, J. Semir & A. J. Mattos 1831* (HUFU, SPF, UEC, US); km 66 da estrada Curvelo–Diamantina, Serra do Brejo Grande, 9 Apr. 1982, *A. Furlan, L. Rossi, N. M. L. Menezes, N. Hensold, H. L. Wagner & E. M. Isejima 3253* (SPF, US); estrada Diamantina–Conselheiro Mata, km 174, 10 Sep. 1986, *N. L. Menezes, T. B. Cavalcanti & J. C. C. Gonçalves 10298* (HUFU, SPF, US); estrada Diamantina–Conselheiro Mata, 23 Sep. 1994, 20.3 km depois do asfalto, *Splett 622* (SPF, UB, US); estrada para Gouveia, 11 Oct. 1996, *W. Marcondes-Ferreira, A. O. Simões & R. Belinello 1347* (UEC); estrada para Gouveia ca. 10 km de Diamantina, 3 Oct. 1997, *M. L. Kawasaki & A. Rapini 1055* (HUFU, SP); estrada Diamantina–Gouveia, ca. 12 km sul de Diamantina, 30 Mar. 2001, *R. Romero & J. N. Nakajima 6065b* (HUFU, NY, UEC); estrada Diamantina–Conselheiro Mata (km 162), ca. 29 km do trevo, 1 Apr. 2001, *R. Romero & J. N. Nakajima 6095* (HUFU).

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